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ADMIRING THE MERIT SYSTEM.

IF THE Republican administration were serious in its pretended admiration for the merit system, it would leave Former Senator Paddock, present incumbent of the office of harbor master where he is, because he has done his work properly. And if the administration admired the merit system only in its application to Republican office holders, they would return the place to the former Republican incumbent, Charles H. Morris, who made a most excellent record in office, and who still retains all the experience necessary to fill it properly.

A GREAT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

SECRETARY McADOO'S report, dealing with the operation of the new banking laws, shows a grasp and mastery of finance which entitles him to be called the greatest secretary of the treasury since the time of Alexander Hamilton, who placed the finances of the first government of the United States upon a sound and productive basis.

It is a little curious that what Hamilton desired to do with Washington's aid, McAdoo has been able to do, as adviser to President Wilson.

Hamilton's efforts were early directed to the establishment of a national bank, which should endure as long as the union. He never succeeded in creating such an institution, principally because, with all his ability, he was a Federalist, and, desiring a republic sustained by property instead of by the people, could not conceive a banking institution sufficiently democratic in character to gain for it the faith of the nation.

McAdoo, as secretary, a disciple of Jefferson, has assisted in a predominant way in establishing a financial system, presided over by the government, by direct representation, which promises to live so long as business and industry shall be conducted upon the present plan.

Hamilton lived in a nation which was chiefly devoted to agrarian pursuits. Manufactures were in their infancy. It was the encouragement of manufactures which he chiefly desired, only less than he desired a strong national government, dominated by property, in which states and people should have only a minimum voice.

He could not have foreseen a time when the banking forces of the United States would be diverted from the service of manufactures, to promote aggrandized financial operations more of the nature of gambling enterprises, than of industrial undertakings. Much less could he have looked forward to a time when agriculture would be last in its claim upon the credit which an unparalleled prosperity was to develop.

It has remained for McAdoo to found a system in which manufactures and agriculture have a place proportionate to their importance in the social fabric.

By this system credit is nationalized. It is made to flow where it is needed. It is made democratic. It goes to all who deserve it, upon equal terms. Credit, which was a force making for wasteful and unnatural concentrations of industrial opportunity, has become the energizer of free activity in every market. The large unit is not destroyed, but the large unit cannot hereafter dominate the small one, except by superior power for service.

THE TRAFFIC IN CONTRABAND.

RIFLES, powder and cartridges are materials of direct application to military use, and hence unquestionably are absolute contraband.

In principle they are neither more nor less contraband than warships or parts of war ships. Yet, in the usage of nations, and in the practice of this country, a distinction has arisen between them.

In the Alabama case, the United States established the rule before the Geneva convention, that a neutral must not permit its subjects to build and equip warships for use against a belligerent. Great Britain paid the United States \$15,000,000 compensation for damages occasioned by ships equipped on British soil and used against American commerce, during our Civil War.

Therefore the United States is estopped from permitting its subjects to deal in warships for the use of any belligerent. Having established the rule, it is obliged to live up to it.

It has never been held, however, by any nation that the government of a neutral power has the duty of preventing the manufacture and sale of contraband, or conditional contraband, by its subjects.

But each belligerent has in fact usually exercised the power to determine what is contraband, and what not, or what is conditional contraband, and the private persons shipping such goods have had to assume the risk that they might be seized. It would perhaps be better if neutral nations could agree to leave all belligerents to their own resources, suspending all trade in every commodity by which the war could possibly be continued.

But for the present such an ideal seems as difficult to reach as the ideal of no war at all, principally because such a course would entail so much hardship upon the neutral who practiced the rule.

Should we make a rule that we would sell nothing to the Allies while they are at war, they would promptly retaliate with a rule that they would sell nothing to us, and so grievous disturbances would ensue here and there, in addition to the other disturbances occasioned by the war.

Doubtless any traffic in contraband with the subjects of this country and subjects of Europe injures Germany, but only because Germany is to a large extent in blockade, and cut off from intercourse.

But some goods made in Germany come here, through Holland, and it is not improbable that some of our goods go to Germany by the same route.

We may be sure that the course of trade is not dictated by American hostility to Germany, but by the conditions created by the war and the blockade of German ports.

Raw rubber has been added to the list of articles prohibited for export from Canada during the war.

The revenue cutter Yamaguchi left Savannah to go to the aid of an unknown steamer reported stranded off Venice Point, Ga.

The conviction of Henry Siegel, the New York banker, cost the State of New York \$50,000.

Seven men were injured in a benzol explosion in the Edison moving picture developing plant at Belleville, N. J.

BI-CENTENARY OF

WHITFIELD, PREACHER
OF 18,000 SERMONS.

Calvinistic Methodists in America and Great Britain will celebrate today the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Whitfield, the eloquent founder of their church. Whitfield was born in Gloucester, England, Dec. 16, 1714, the son of a tavern keeper. At the age of eighteen he became a servant at Oxford, where he made the acquaintance of the Wesley's, and was for a time one of the most devoted of their adherents. He was a leader in that little religious society whose members, because of their strict, orderly mode of life and worship, were facetiously dubbed "Methodists" by their companions.

Whitfield was ordained a deacon at the age of twenty-one, and soon became very eloquent as a preacher. He was generally recognized as the most eloquent pupil orator of his time. From the time he delivered his first religious address in 1736 until his death—which occurred at Newburyport, Mass., during his seventh visit to America—he is said to have preached more than 18,000 sermons. In 1737 he first visited America and preached before large audiences in Georgia. He returned to England to raise funds for building an orphan's home in Georgia, and, having taken priest's orders, he repaired to London, where the churches were incapable of holding the vast throngs attracted by his eloquence. He then took to preaching in parks and open fields. In 1741, after he had made a second tour of the American provinces, Whitfield severed his connection with the Wesley's and their followers, owing to differences with regard to the doctrine of grace, Wesley being Arminian, and Whitfield Calvinistic. This led for a time to a loss in popularity, but, after four years of revival work in America, Whitfield returned to England and gained the influential support of the Countess of Huntingdon, becoming her chaplain. The energetic support of this noblewoman restored the "revival" movement to its old popularity, and enabled him to establish a college. During Whitfield's life his sect was known as "the Countess of Huntingdon's connection," but it did not remain so long. His connection with the Church of England until 1810, forty years after the death of the founder. The modern religious "revival" may be said to have been originated by Whitfield, each of all the other evangelists of the last two centuries, he was probably the most eloquent.

ALBERT OF BELGIUM

To-morrow will mark the fifth anniversary of the death of King Leopold of Belgium and the accession to the throne of Albert, Leopold's eldest son. Standing over six feet in height, soldierly in bearing, handsome of face, kindly and democratic in temperament, he is a commanding figure of a man, and his gallantry and devotion in the crisis through which his little kingdom is passing has made him a popular idol and almost the supreme hero of the war among those on his side of the bloody controversy. The late King Leopold, uncle of the present monarch, by his unconventional love affair and his ruthless administration of the Congo, brought his country to the verge of socialism. The popularity of King Albert has turned the tide against revolution, and his democracy won the admiration of such socialist leaders as Emile Vandervelde, who, since the war, has accepted a place in the Belgian cabinet. As a boy Albert was a physical weakling, but athletic sports and soldierly pursuits made him over into a strong, hardy, stalwart man. Albert was not educated for the royal role, and it was only the death of three other heirs before the passing of Leopold that brought him to the throne. He entered the army of Belgium at the age of twenty-one. He served in the cavalry, the infantry and the artillery, in order that he might gain a thorough insight into all branches of the military service, and rose to the rank of lieutenant-general before he was called upon to assume the crown. He married the Countess of Bavaria, but the Queen, although born a subject of the Kaiser, is said to be as devoted to the Belgium cause as her husband. Many instances of personal courage and able leadership have been imputed to King Albert, who is not a figurehead, but the real, active commander-in-chief of the Belgian army.

Gore, Ga., P. A. Morgan had, occasion recently to use a liver medicine and says of Foley Cathartic Tablets: "They thoroughly cleansed my system and I felt like a new man—light and free. They are the best medicine I have ever taken for constipation. They keep the stomach sweet, liver active, bowels regular." Hindie's Drug Store.—Adv.

Xmas Presents

Make your friends happy by giving them an article they can enjoy every day, the

RUBBER STORE
is stocked with pleasing gifts.

BOYS BOOTS

Boys Size to 6 \$2.39
Youths Size to 2 \$1.99
Childs Size to 10 1-2 \$1.49

BOYS RUBBER COATS

We have a large line of guaranteed coats in Rubber Surfact and Cloth,
\$2.50 to \$5.00
the garment.

ARCTIC AND OVERSHOES

One, two and four buckle overshoes for the whole family.

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Established 1857.

When the Reindeer Sleigh Arrives
the Children must not be disappointed.



For Little Kindergartners.

Stationery
Kewpie Paper in boxes, 50 cts
Pencil Boxes, filled with most delightful and tempting pencils, 20 to 75 cts
Paint Boxes, many styles, 40 cts to \$1.50
Pencil Box containing ruler, flat pocket pencil, eraser, 9 pencils, 1 crayon pencil, 1 penholder, a dozen assorted pen points and pencil sharpener, 75 cts
Smaller Boxes with numerous pencils, etc., 35 and 50 cts
Pocket Case of imitation leather with pencils, pen holder, eraser and pens, etc., 25 cts
Paint Boxes with assorted colors, brushes, mixing trays, and water-glass, \$1.50
Main floor.

School Umbrellas.

Silk Umbrellas, 24 inch, in garnet or navy blue \$1.50 and \$2
Gloria Silk of fine quality, 24 inch, \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50
Corolla Cloth with plain or fancy handles, 50 and 75 cts
Umbrella Section.

Accessories for Little Girls.

Bead Purses of attractive style, 50 cts and \$1.00
Mesh Purses, 50 cts
Leather Handbags, the right size, color effects, 25 and 50 cts
Slipper Buckles, blue or pink enamel, or gold, 75 cts
Bracelets, gold filled, 50 cts
Chain Bracelets set with stones, 50 cts

For the Baby.

A wonderful High Chair, adjustable to four different positions, as rocker, just low enough to wheel round, and two medium positions.

In Oak, \$6.75

Plain High Chairs, Oak or Bentwood, \$1.75 up
A Doll Carriage, fashioned just like a real baby carriage, of light rattan with roll edges on hood and body, \$3.75 to \$12.75.

Children's China.



Quaint little Mugs,
Plates and Bowls of Austrian-ware with pictures of animals, boats, birds, etc.
Cups and Saucers 15 cts
Mugs, 15 cts
Plates, 15 and 25 cts
Bowls, 15 cts
Bread and Milk Cereal Sets, three pieces, 25 cts

Linen Bibs and Supper Sets.

Large Apron Bibs that cover the little frocks, hand embroidered.

Supper Sets that include large Tray Cloth and Bib, embroidered with most fascinating pictures.

Gift Room.

Gifts for Home-lovers.

Oriental Rugs

Pictures on the floor. One never ties of the soft colorings and the designs that look mysterious to the western world. A remarkable group of Moussouls and Hamadans are now spread for inspection, practical and very low in price.

\$25.00 to \$65.00

No better chance for selection.

First floor.

Baskets for all Uses.

Japanese Su-su-dake and German Reed and Willow Ware in artistic designs.

Scrap Baskets of all sizes, Sewing Baskets, Tray and Fruit Baskets, Flower Baskets and Nursery Baskets

A fine line of Standing Work Baskets, and these make very acceptable gifts.

Basement.

Domestic Pottery from Ohio.

Artistic Bowls, shallow Trays and Fern Dishes of mat green and Roma Ivory, Copra, Eocene and Carnelian in such shapes and sizes as are required for flowers or growing plants.

Also Lamp Vases, Candlesticks, and Window Boxes.
Basement.

Silver Novelties.

Cake Baskets and Sandwich Trays, Bakers and Pie Dishes, Candlesticks and Vases. All such pieces as are needed by the hostess for bridge parties or teas.

Flat Silver, Cheese Knives, Ladles, Napkin Rings and Clips, Oyster and Ice Cream Forks, Berry and Salad Spoons and Forks.

Smokers' Stands.

Very substantial and masculine affairs of Mission Oak, with removable ashtrays, alcohol lighters, and wooden pipe racks.

\$3.00

Oak Stand with tray, cigar cutter, cigar lighter in the shape of a bonze, pipe rack and shelf for tobacco jar.

\$3.75

Oak Stand with under cupboard to hold cigars, or humidior, tray, lighter in the shape of a very ugly bulldog, pipe rack, etc.

\$8.50

Out of Town Deliveries. All mailable packages sent free to any point in the United States or Canada.

All bulky packages shipped by freight or express free of charge to points within New England, New York or New Jersey.

For goods purchased in the store.

The D. M. Read Company.

BOOKER WASHINGTON
WILL TELL OF WORK
OF EDUCATING NEGRO

"Making Useful Citizens," is a caption that might be stated as the objective of many institutions, but to none with greater fact and more force than to the Tuskegee Institute, which last year enrolled over 1,500 students.

The principal of Tuskegee, Booker T. Washington, is to speak in Bridgeport on Sunday afternoon. He will address a meeting for men under Y. M. C. A. auspices.

Dr. Washington makes the following explanation for the large amount of money devoted to extension and publicity work done by the Tuskegee and

Hampton Institutes: "Our justification for large expenditures in these two directions is found in the fact that, but for our activity in keeping the cause of negro education before the people in the North and South, interest would be waning instead of waxing as it is; in a word, every dollar that these two institutions expend in extension work and publicity is helping all the institutions in the South and the whole subject of negro education."

Since its foundation in 1881, over 8,000 men and women have spent considerable time in study and work under expert leadership, and Tuskegee methods and ideals have been disseminated through the country among negroes.

Farmer Want Ads 1c a word

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Rev. and Mrs. William H. Jepson are to give an informal dance for the younger people on Saturday evening, December 26 in St. Luke's parish house. The affair is in honor of the twenty-first birthday of their son, Herbert Jepson, a student of Trinity College and several of his college chums will be among the guests.

Because of the regular meeting day falling so near to Christmas, the Women's Relief Corps of the G. A. R. will meet tomorrow afternoon, Dec. 17, at 3 o'clock.

The children of the Fannie A. Smith Kindergarten are to hold their Christmas party at the Kindergarten, 883 Lafayette street, on Friday, December

18, at 3 o'clock.

The advanced pupils of Miss Penhaly, Slocom, will have their annual Christmas cotillion on Friday afternoon at 8:30 o'clock. The smallest pupils will have their party on Monday.

Mrs. Jennie Stransky of New York was burned to death when her hand set her bed on fire, and choking her, held her on the burning mattress until the police arrived.

THE PRETTIEST FACE

and the most beautiful hands are often disfigured by an unsightly wart. It can easily be removed in a few days without pain by using Cyru's Wart Remover. For sale only at the Cyru's Pharmacy, 418 Fairfield Ave.